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House Republican Leader Praises Hoekstra for Energy Bill

House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) congratulated Rep. Pete Hoekstra for passing the National Intelligence Assessment on Security Issues Related to Rising Energy Costs.

The bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit a National Intelligence Assessment on national security issues related to rapidly escalating energy costs. After initially written by Hoekstra and rejected by House Democratic leaders, the bill was brought back to the House floor the following week at the request of Democratic leaders and under the name of a different sponsor, Rep. Don Cazayoux (D-LA).

Boehner commended Hoekstra "for the rather unorthodox passage of his important bill."

A few of the required provisions of the assessment include:

- Short- and long-term outlook for prices, supply and demand for key forms of energy.
- Plans and intentions of key energy-producing and exporting countries with respect to production and supply.
- National security implications of rapidly escalating energy costs.
- Potential use of energy resources as leverage against the United States by Venezuela, Iran or other potential adversaries.
- National security implications of increases in funding to current or potential adversaries as a result of increased energy prices.
- National security implications of continued dependence upon international energy supplies.

Digital TV Transition

On February 17, 2009, all full-powered broadcast television stations in the United States will end broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will enable stations to offer additional channels and improved picture and sound quality.

Consumers who rely upon antennas (including outside antennas and "rabbit ears") to receive over-the-air-broadcast signals on TV sets with analog tuners will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog set-top converter boxes to view over-the-air TV.

To learn more about the transition visit: <http://www.dtv.gov/>.

Hoekstra Pens Detroit News Op-Ed on Flexibility with Federal Funds

The Detroit News recently published an Op-ed authored by Rep. Pete Hoekstra that discusses the State Temporary Economic Priority (STEP) Act, which provides states the flexibility to direct transportation, education and job training funds toward their most important priorities during periods of economic downturn.

The Op-ed can be viewed here:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080716/OPINION01/807160328/1008>

For more information on Pete's activities in Washington, D.C. please visit <http://hoekstra.house.gov>